

Remarks:

Claims 1-30 have been canceled from this application without prejudice, and have been replaced with new claims 31-63, with claims 31, 36, 41, 46, 51, 56 and 61 being in independent form. In view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks hereunder, the rejections of the last office action are respectfully traversed.

Claim 31 is directed toward an animal feed composition comprising a member selected from the group consisting of electrostatically charged glycine, alanine, serine, and combinations thereof. Of all the references cited by the Examiner the only reference disclosing an animal feed composition comprising at least one of the above three amino acids is U.S. Patent No. 4,282,254 (Franzen et al.). The '254 patent generally discloses a dog food having improved palatability through the use of amino acid palatants. The '254 patent is silent as to whether any of these amino acids bear an electrostatic charge. From the present specification, it is known that none of the above three amino acids bear a charge in their natural state. Therefore, these amino acids must undergo a pH adjustment step in order to impart an electrostatic charge. The '254 patent does not teach that the amino acid palatants have undergone any kind of pH adjustment either before or after being incorporated into the dog food composition. None of the other references cited by the Examiner overcome the shortcomings of the '254 patent in this respect. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the references of record in this application.

Claim 36 is directed toward an animal feed composition comprising an ingredient selected from the group consisting of electrostatically charged glycine, alanine, serine, glutamic acid, aspartic acid, lysine, proline and combinations thereof. The electrostatic charge on this ingredient must be

greater than the charge exhibited by the ingredient in its natural state. According to the disclosure of the present application, certain amino acids naturally bear a charge, however, this charge can be enhanced in order to increase the effectiveness in, for example, degrading hair. Enhancement of the electrostatic charge is effected by adjusting the pH of the amino acid prior to its incorporation into the animal feed composition. None of the referenced cited by the Examiner teach either overtly or inherently enhancing the electrostatic charge of one or more of the above amino acids from its natural state. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 36 is allowable over the references of record.

Claim 41 is generally directed toward an animal feed composition comprising an ingredient selected from the group consisting of electrostatically charged glycine, alanine, serine, glutamic acid, aspartic acid, lysine, proline and combinations thereof. The pH of the ingredient is either below about 5 or above about 9 prior to being incorporated into the composition. This claim is analogous to claim 36 in many respects. By adjusting the pH of the amino acid ingredient as required by claim 41, the ingredient is caused to assume an electrostatic charge that is enhanced from its natural state. As noted above, none of the cited references teach adjusting the pH of one of the above amino acid ingredients prior to incorporation into the composition.

Claim 61 embodies the aforementioned method of forming an animal feed composition comprising one of the above seven amino acids having an enhanced electrostatic charge. This claim is generally directed toward a method comprising the steps of providing at least one of the forgoing amino acids, performing a pH adjustment step on the amino acid in order to cause the amino acid to assume an electrostatic charge that is enhanced from its natural state, and combining the amino acid with an additional food-forming component. Again, none of the references of record recite


performing a pH adjustment step on the amino acid prior to incorporation thereof into the animal feed composition.

Claims 46, 51, and 56 are all directed toward methods of feeding animals and include all of the limitations of claims 1, 36, and 41, respectively. Therefore, Applicants submit that these claims are also free of the cited references.

Any additional fee which is due in connection with this amendment should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

In view of the foregoing, a Notice of Allowance appears to be in order and such is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Gregory J. Skoeh, Reg. No. 48,267  
HOVEY WILLIAMS, LLP  
2405 Grand Boulevard, Suite 400  
Kansas City, Missouri 64108  
816/474-9050

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT(S)